Housing condition of Dalits and Minorities

3303. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken to improve the housing condition of Dalits and Minorities in the cities and towns; and

(b) whether his Ministry has done any study on the housing condition of minorities and the reasons for a large number of them having to survive in ghettoes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, this Ministry has formulated the first urban area focussed National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, which has been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. The policy seeks to set in motion a process for providing Affordable Housing for All particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

The Policy aims to make special efforts for catering to the needs of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Minorities, Disabled persons, slum dwellers, street vendors other informal sector workers and other vulnerable sections of the society in relation to housing and access to basic services.

The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers/urban poor including Dalits and Minorities of identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States for taking up projects for housing and infrastructural facilities for slum dwellers/urban poor in 63 select cities in the country under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP). Other cities and towns are covered under the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). JNNURM envisages a minimum of 12% beneficiary contribution, which in the case of SC/ST/Backward Classes/OBC/Physically Handicapped and other weaker section is 10%.

This Ministry has not done any specific study on the housing condition of minorities.

Housing shortage and ceiling on prices of LIG and MIG flats

3304. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shortage of houses in urban areas;

(b) Government's plan and initiative to face the challenges and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering ceiling in prices of LIG and MIG flats so that the private sector cannot increase the prices at their will?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the estimates made by the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the Tenth Five year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million. The category-wise housing shortage is as follows:—